

VAMPIRE



CONWAY
AHN
TAM



WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

Having discovered her origin lies in science and myth, Vampi heads off to unearth the truth behind the mystery of the Draconians. She finds herself in Mexico City where the legends of blood suckers have survived for centuries.

In the hills outside the city, she meets a young girl who know more than she's letting on. But Connie refuses to acknowledge the existence of chupacabras, the blood suckers Vampi is looking for.

Unfortunately, there are other blood suckers in town. And they've shed their skin to reveal their true selves.



The Valusians have stepped forward with the truth: they are part of that ancient race that gave birth to the creatures in Archangel's lab. The same lab that helped give Vampi life.

Vampi infiltrates an invitation-only party thrown by the Valusians. She's not convinced they're as bad as Connie says; in fact, she's enjoying the high end soiree. Until the midnight hour strikes.

The Valusians open their altar and prepare a sacrifice. Vampi watches in horror, not sure what to do... at first. She soon springs into action, to aid those unable to help themselves. The Valusians are ready for her, though, and a captured Connie -- whose own secret is revealed -- is brought forth.

And as the golden couple show their true colors, a recent addition to the fold makes his appearance again. The beast is offered Connie as entertainment for the hosts, much to Vampi's disgust and dismay.

But, as Vampi knows, all monsters aren't what they seem. And some just are.






OH MY
GOD.

WHAT--
WHAT ARE
YOU?


YOU
REALLY DON'T
KNOW?

I SHOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
IT WAS OBVIOUS--
ESPECIALLY
TO YOU.





WE ARE
YOU-- AS YOU
TRULY ARE.




I'M
NOTHING LIKE
YOU!

FALSE MODESTY
ILL-BECOMES YOU,
DARLING.


WE'RE
SISTERS UNDER
THE SKIN YOU
AND I.

THE APPEARANCE
OF HUMANITY YOU AFFECT
IS JUST LIKE THE DISGUISE
WE HAVE CHOSEN
TO ADOPT--




-- A
SUPERFICIAL
MASK DESIGNED
WITH BUT A SINGLE
PURPOSE--

-- TO HIDE
OUR TRUE FACES
AND NATURES--



-- AND THE
APPETITES ONLY
BLOOD CAN
SATISFY.

YOU CAN'T
SERIOUSLY DENY
THAT, CAN YOU?



OR HAVEN'T
YOU LOOKED IN
THE MIRROR
RECENTLY?

SURE, I'M
A VAMPIRE--



BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M A SADISTIC MURDERER!

MAYBE I'M ONLY HALF HUMAN, BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN THAT.

HSSSSSSSSSS

YOU'RE ALL MONSTER!



MONSTERS-- IS THAT HOW YOU SEE US?

I SUPPOSE WE ARE MONSTERS IN THE MOST LITERAL SENSE OF THE WORD--

-- MAGNIFICENT, FABULOUS, TERRIFYING...



INVINCIBLE!

OF COURSE, IT'S ALL A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE REALLY.

YOU CONDEMN US AS MONSTERS-- BUT FOR AEONS OTHERS HAVE WORSHIPPED US--

"--AS GODS!

"OUR KIND RULED THIS LAND FOR MILLENNIA, VENERATED BY THE MAYA AND AZTECS AS QUETZALCOATL AND CIHUACOATL, THE WINGED SERPENT AND SERPENT WOMAN.

"WE WERE THE TRUE DRAGONS OF EDEN, RIGHTFUL MASTERS OF THE EARTH AND RULERS OF THE HUMAN SLAVE RACE.

YOUR LOVE OF HUMANITY IS A SENTIMENTAL DELUSION.

IT WAS HUMANS THEMSELVES WHO SACRIFICED THEIR CHILDREN TO US-- WITH TEARS OF GRATITUDE IN THEIR EYES.

FEAR AND WEAKNESS DEFINE THE HUMAN CONDITION.

HUMANITY IS A DISEASE -- AND YOU'VE BEEN CONTAMINATED BY IT.

YOU CHOSE TO SIDE WITH OUR PREY-- SO SHARE THEIR FATE!

IT'S BEEN CENTURIES SINCE I'VE FED ON ANYTHING MORE EXOTIC THAN PEASANTS...

AURELIUS!



WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE HER ALL TO YOURSELF?
I HAVE JUST AS MUCH RIGHT TO HER!

IT'S CUSTOMARY THAT I CLAIM OUR FIRST VICTIM.

THE LAW OF RITUAL-- OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

THE LAW OF RITUAL ONLY APPLIES TO HUMAN SACRIFICE-- SHE DOESN'T QUALIFY.

AND THAT MAKES HER FAIR GAME.



NO!
WAIT!



DON'T DO IT, PLEASE!

NOT LIKE THIS!



YOU PRESUME TO INTERFERE, DOMINGO?

DOES THE BURDEN OF YOUR BANAL LITTLE LIFE WEIGH SO HEAVILY UPON YOUR SPINELESS BACK?

FORGIVE ME, BUT IT'S JUST THAT--

-- THAT I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT SHOULD HELP RESOLVE YOUR... DISPUTE.



LET THE MONKEY SPEAK, AURELIUS DARLING.

I DO SO LOVE TO WATCH THESE CREATURES SQUIRM.

ALL RIGHT, DOMINGO, WE'RE LISTENING.

OH, TRUST ME--



I JUST
KNOW YOU'LL
LIKE THIS!

DOMINGO,
DARLING, I NEVER
REALIZED YOU HAD
SUCH A FLAIR FOR
THE DRAMATIC.

YOU REALLY
HAVE SURPASSED
YOURSELF.

SO, YOU'RE
GONNA TORTURE ME
TO DEATH? HOW
ORIGINAL!



TORTURE
YOU?

WHY
SHOULD WE
WANT TO DO
THAT?

YOU'VE
TORTURED
YOURSELF ENOUGH
ALREADY--

-- ATTEMPTING
TO RECONCILE THE
WARRING SIDES OF YOUR
NATURE, VAMPIRE
AND HUMAN.

THE OBVIOUS
SOLUTION IS TO
SEPARATE BOTH--
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.

AND THIS
WAY WE GET TO
SHARE YOU BETWEEN
US EQUALLY.

IT WOULD
BE FATUOUS
TO SAY THAT THIS
IS GOING TO HURT US
MORE THAT IT WILL
HURT YOU.

BUT THERE
IS AN UPSIDE TO YOUR
SITUATION...



YES.

IT MEANS
YOU'LL HAVE AMPLE
TIME TO WATCH WHAT'S
IN STORE FOR YOUR
LITTLE FRIEND.



A FATE
WORSE THAN A
FATE WORSE THAN
DEATH, YOU
COULD SAY.



LEAVE HER
ALONE, YOU
BITCH!

IF YOU
SO MUCH AS
HURT HER
I'LL --



SAVE
YOUR BREATH,
DEAR.

JUST
LOOK--



CONNIE!

NO!



-- AND LEARN.

THIS IS JUST A TASTE OF WHAT'S COMING.



HUMANITY'S FATE IS TO SHARE THE COMMON DESTINY OF ALL LIVESTOCK.



OF COURSE, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, DOMINGO.

WE SHALL ALWAYS NEED SLAVES.

SERVE US WELL AND WE MIGHT LET YOU RUN ONE OF OUR CAMPS.

WE'LL NEED TO MAINTAIN A LIMITED BREEDING PROGRAM--

... BECAUSE WHEN THE GODS YOU DARE CALL MONSTERS RETURN, THEY'RE BOUND TO BE HUNGRY.



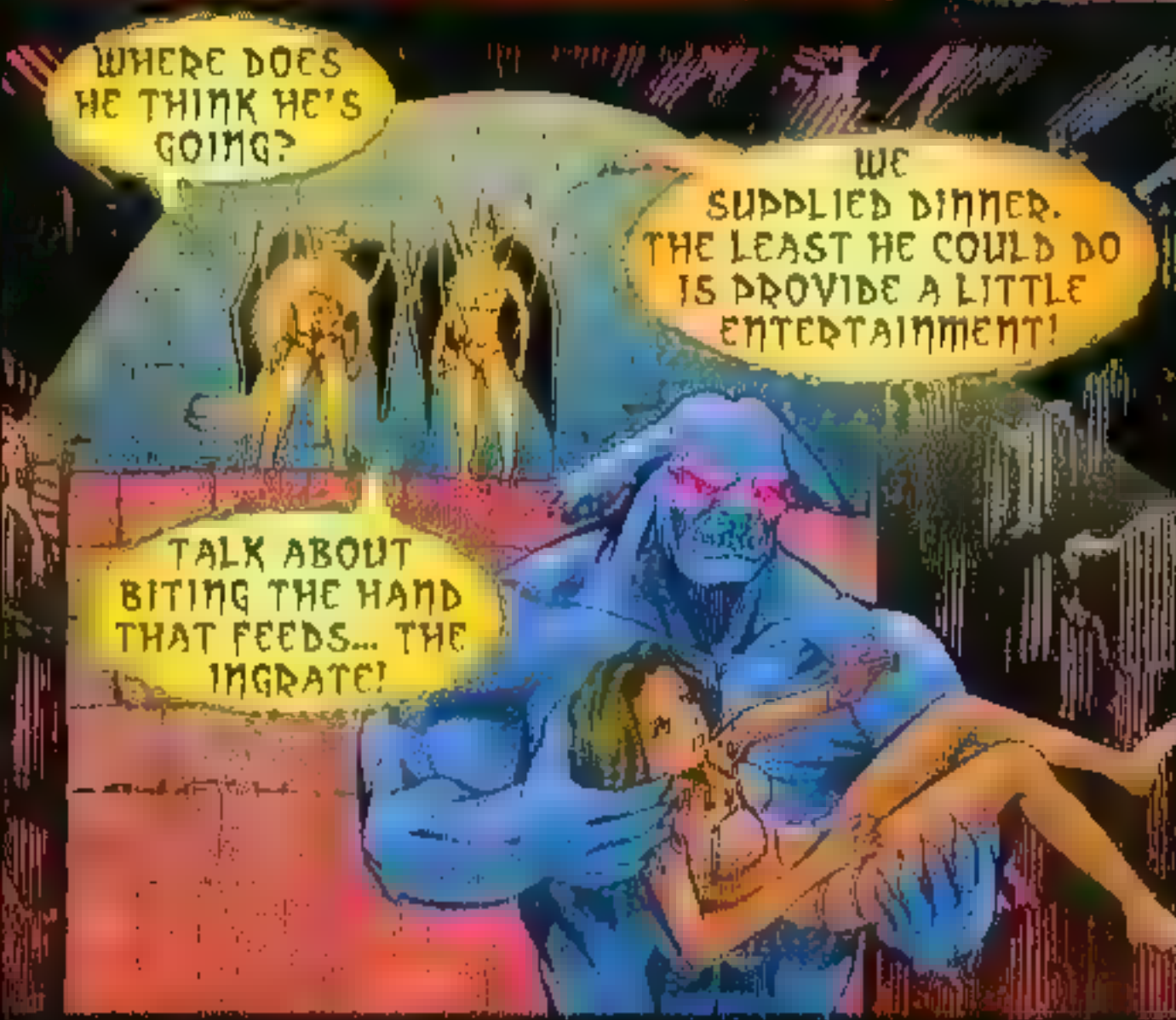
QUITE SO-- RAVENOUS.



I SHOULD
IMAGINE YOU'D
RELISH EXERCISING
SUCH POWER,
DOMINGO.



I CAN
REALLY SEE YOU
IN THE ROLE OF
A TURNKEY.



WHERE DOES
HE THINK HE'S
GOING?

WE
SUPPLIED DINNER.
THE LEAST HE COULD DO
IS PROVIDE A LITTLE
ENTERTAINMENT!

TALK ABOUT
BITING THE HAND
THAT FEEDS... THE
INGRATE!



IT SEEMS
HE PREFERS TO
INDULGE HIS BESTIAL
PASSIONS IN
PRIVATE.

AT LEAST
HIS BASHFULNESS HAS
SPARED YOUR DELICATE
SENSIBILITIES--



-- DOMINGO?



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

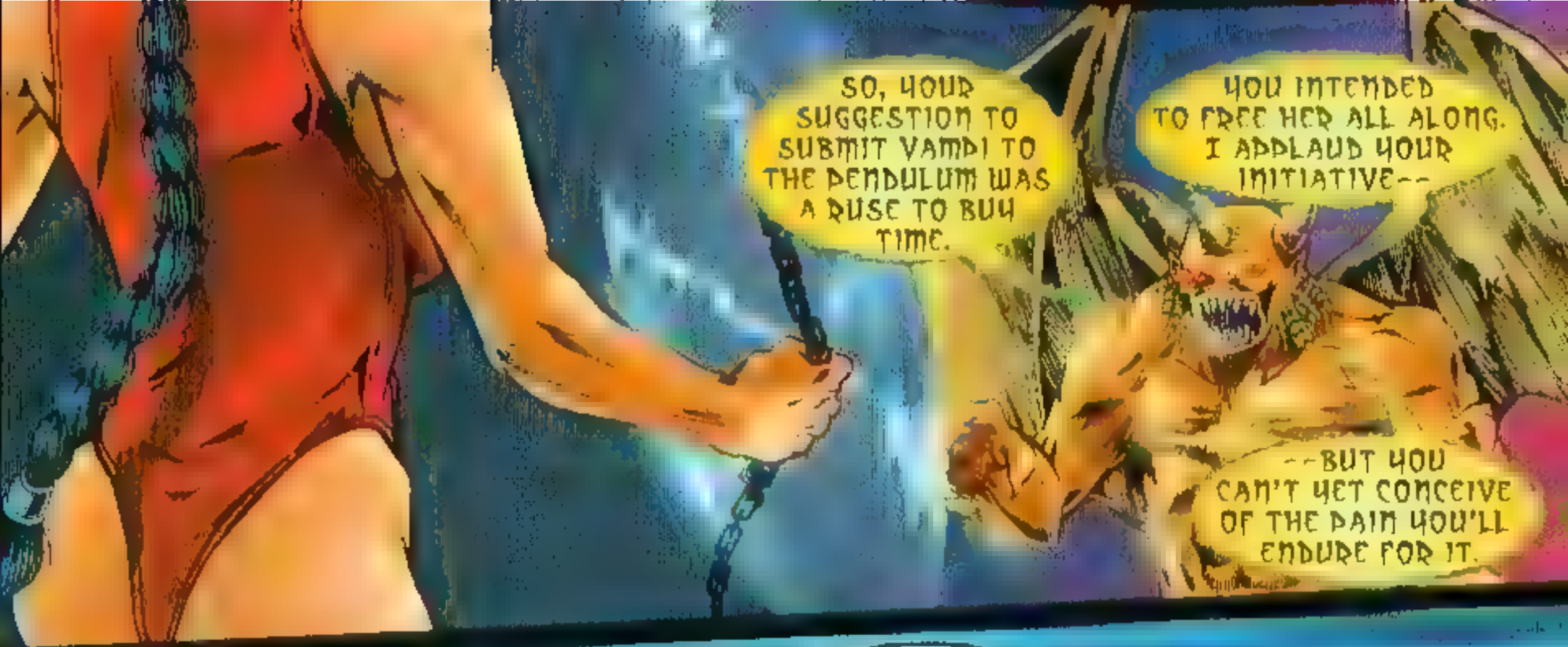
SEEMS
YOUR SLAVE HAS
HAD A CHANGE
OF HEART.

FOR A RAT, HE'S
MORE IN TOUCH WITH
HIS WEAK AND DEGENERATE
HUMANITY THAN YOU
SUSPECTED, HUH?

SHE'S RIGHT,
AURELIUS.

CORRUPTION
IS ONE THING, BUT I
CAN'T BE A PARTY TO THIS--
IT'S PURE EVIL!

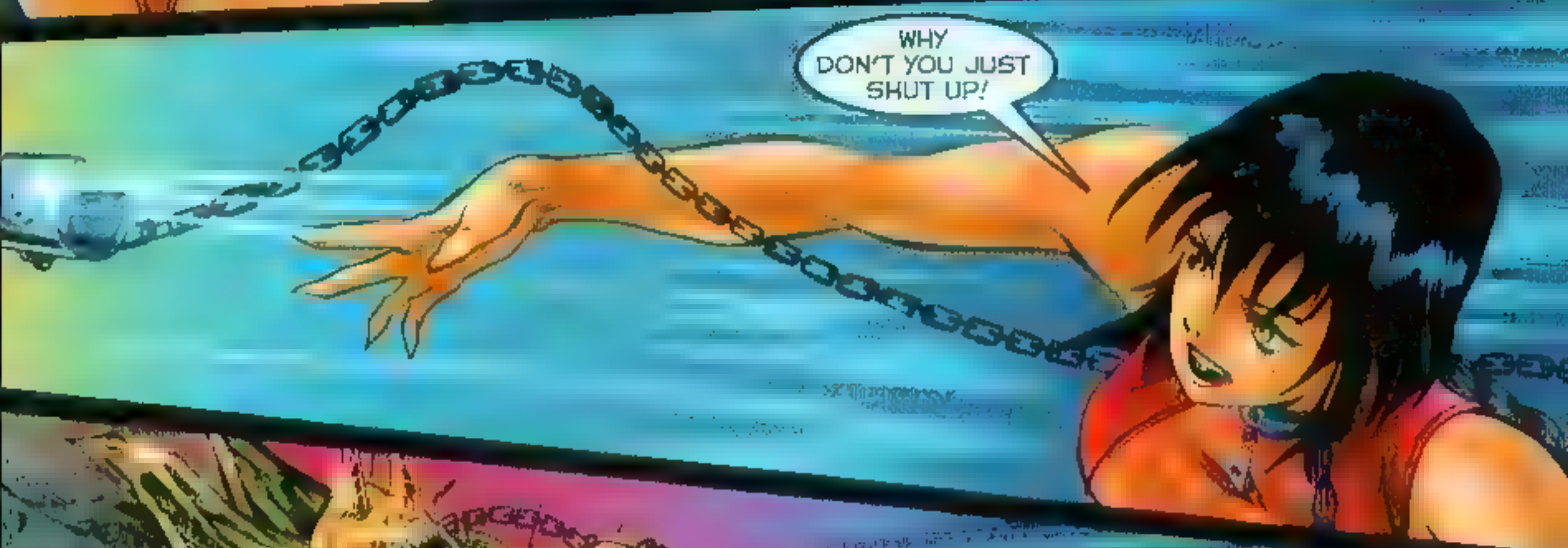




SO, YOUR
SUGGESTION TO
SUBMIT VAMPI TO
THE PENDULUM WAS
A RUSE TO BUY
TIME.

YOU INTENDED
TO FREE HER ALL ALONG.
I APPRAISE YOUR
INITIATIVE--

--BUT YOU
CAN'T YET CONCEIVE
OF THE PAIN YOU'LL
ENDURE FOR IT.



WHY
DON'T YOU JUST
SHUT UP!



IF THERE'S
ANY PAIN TO BE
ENDURED AROUND
HERE--



--YOU'LL
DO IT!

UNDERSTAND?

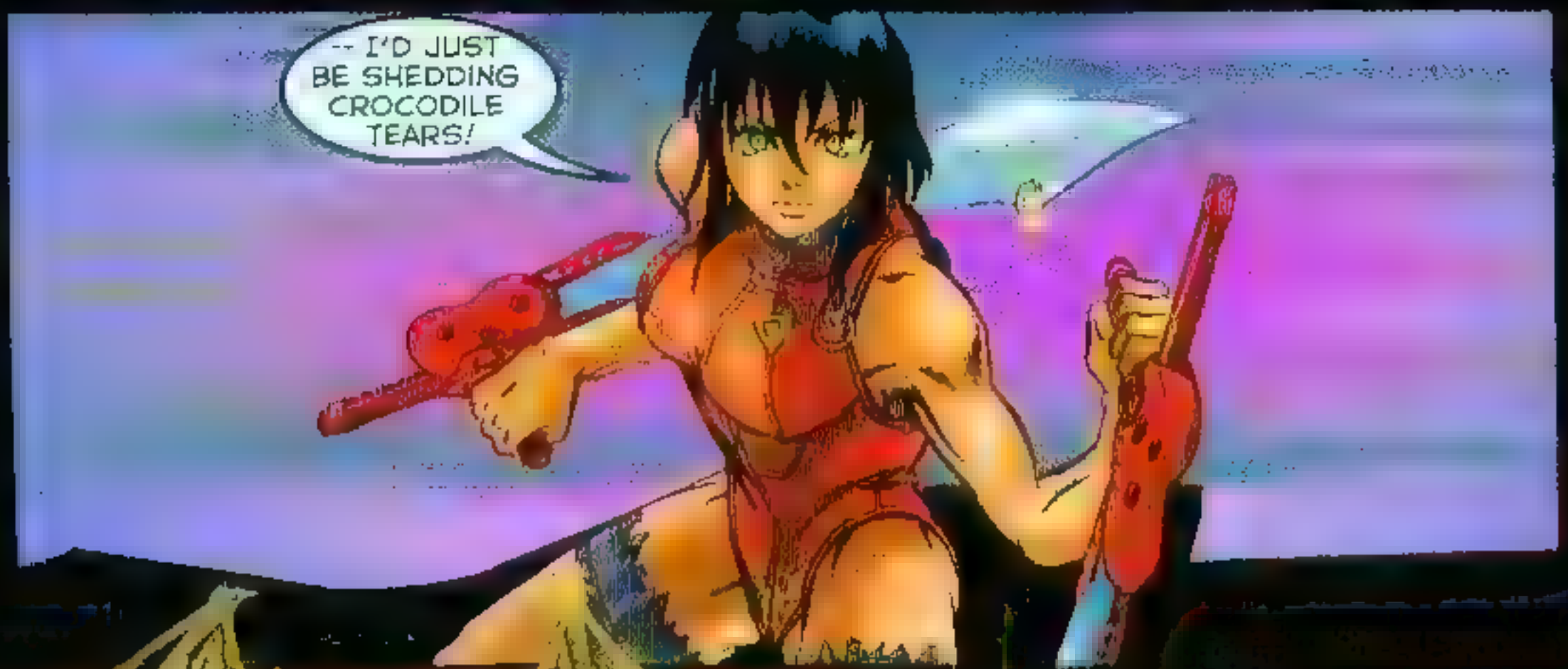


AURELIUS?

YOU
CREEPS WANTED
TO MAKE THIS A FIGHT
TO THE FINISH,
REMEMBER?

I COULD
SAY I WAS SORRY
IT HAD TO COME
TO THIS.

BUT AFTER
WHAT YOU DID
TO CONNIE--

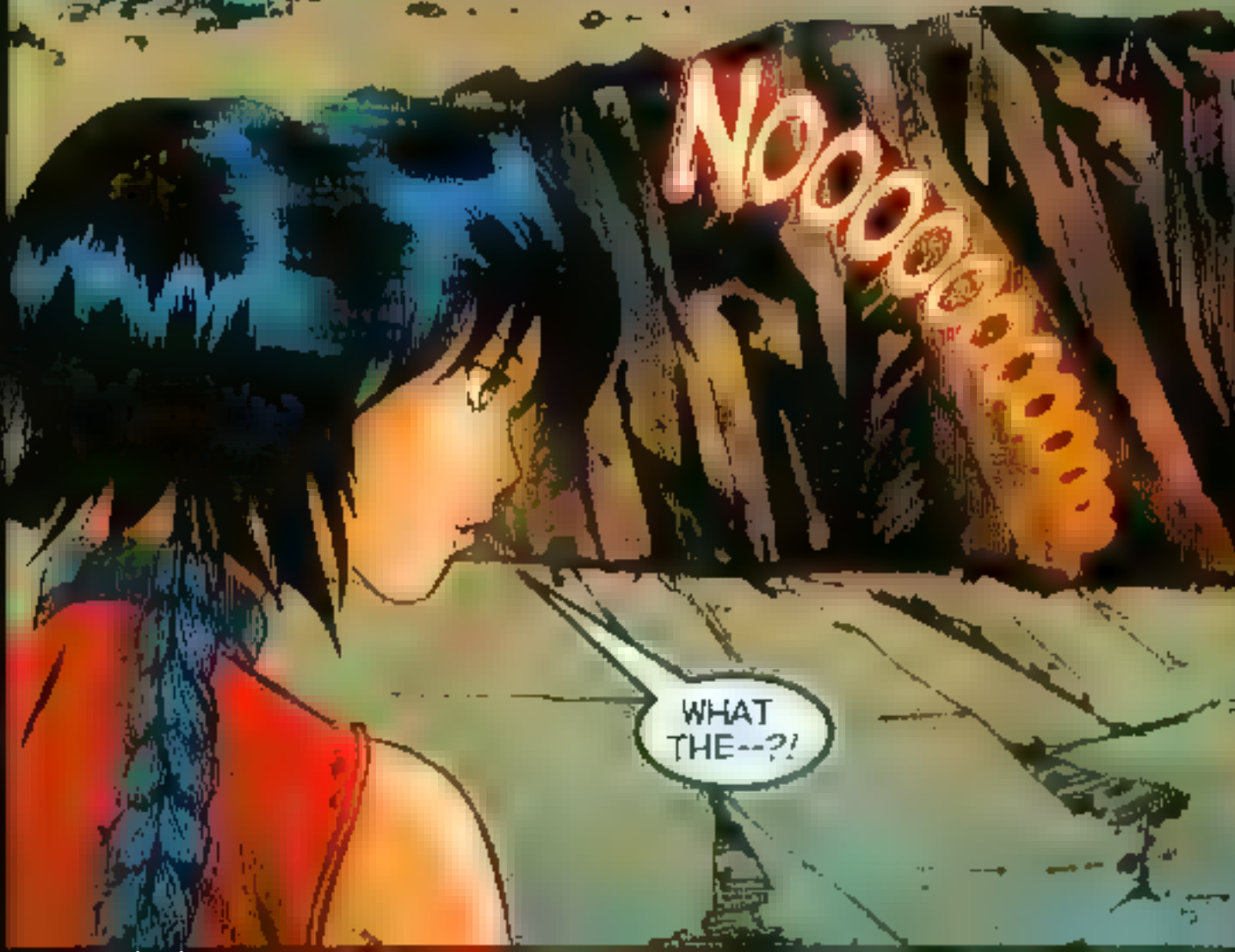


-- I'D JUST
BE SHEDDING
CROCODILE
TEARS!



CONNIE?

SHE'S
STILL ALIVE?



Nooooo

WHAT
THE--?!



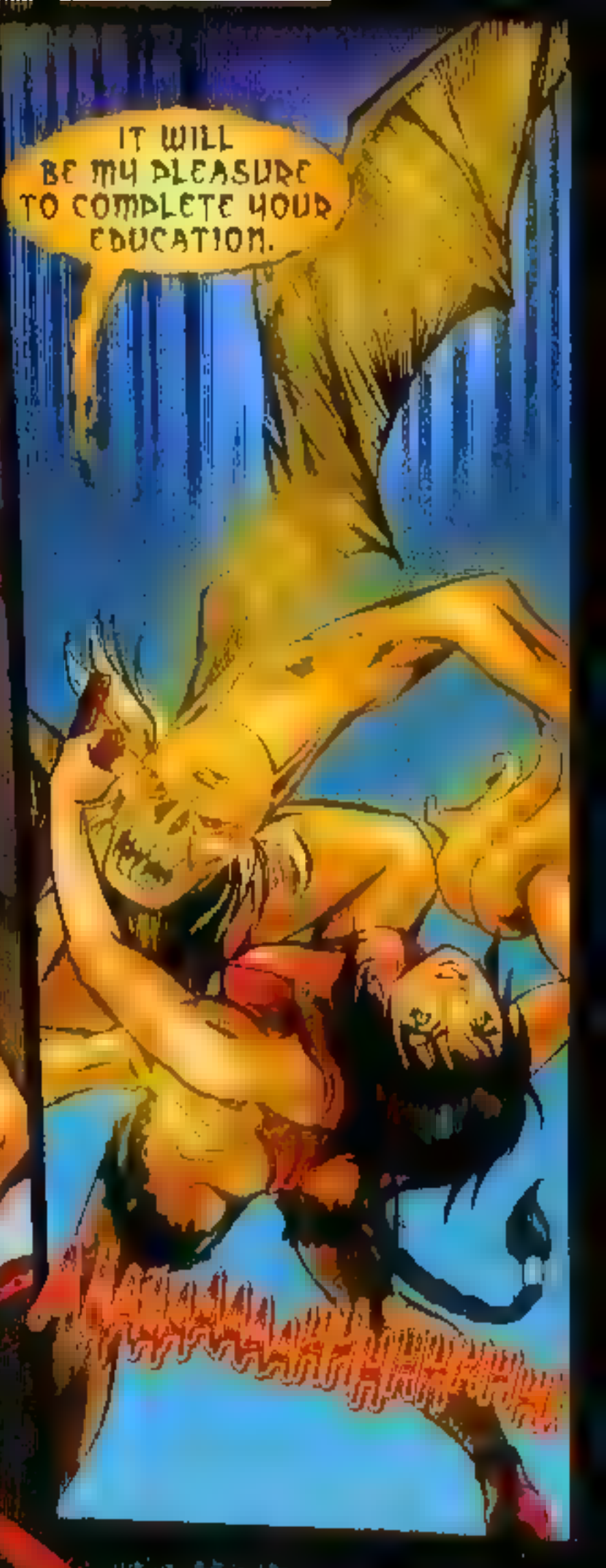
SO
IT WOULD
SEEM.

AND
SUFFERING
DELICIOUSLY,
NO DOUBT.




AND MISERY
LOVES COMPANY,
DARLING.


IF YOU
THINK YOU CAN
TEACH US ABOUT PAIN,
YOU'RE SORELY
MISTAKEN.



IT WILL
BE MY PLEASURE
TO COMPLETE YOUR
EDUCATION.




TO BE HONEST,
I'M RATHER GLAD
YOU ESCAPED THE
PENDULUM.



THIS WAY,
I GET TO HAVE
YOU ALL TO
MYSELF.

I LOVE
AURELIUS DEARLY--
BUT HE MISSED
HIS CHANCE.

IT'S TRUE
WHAT THEY SAY: THE
FEMALE OF THE SPECIES
TRULY IS DEADLIER
THAN THE MALE.



AS I SAID
BEFORE, WE'RE
PRACTICALLY
SISTERS.

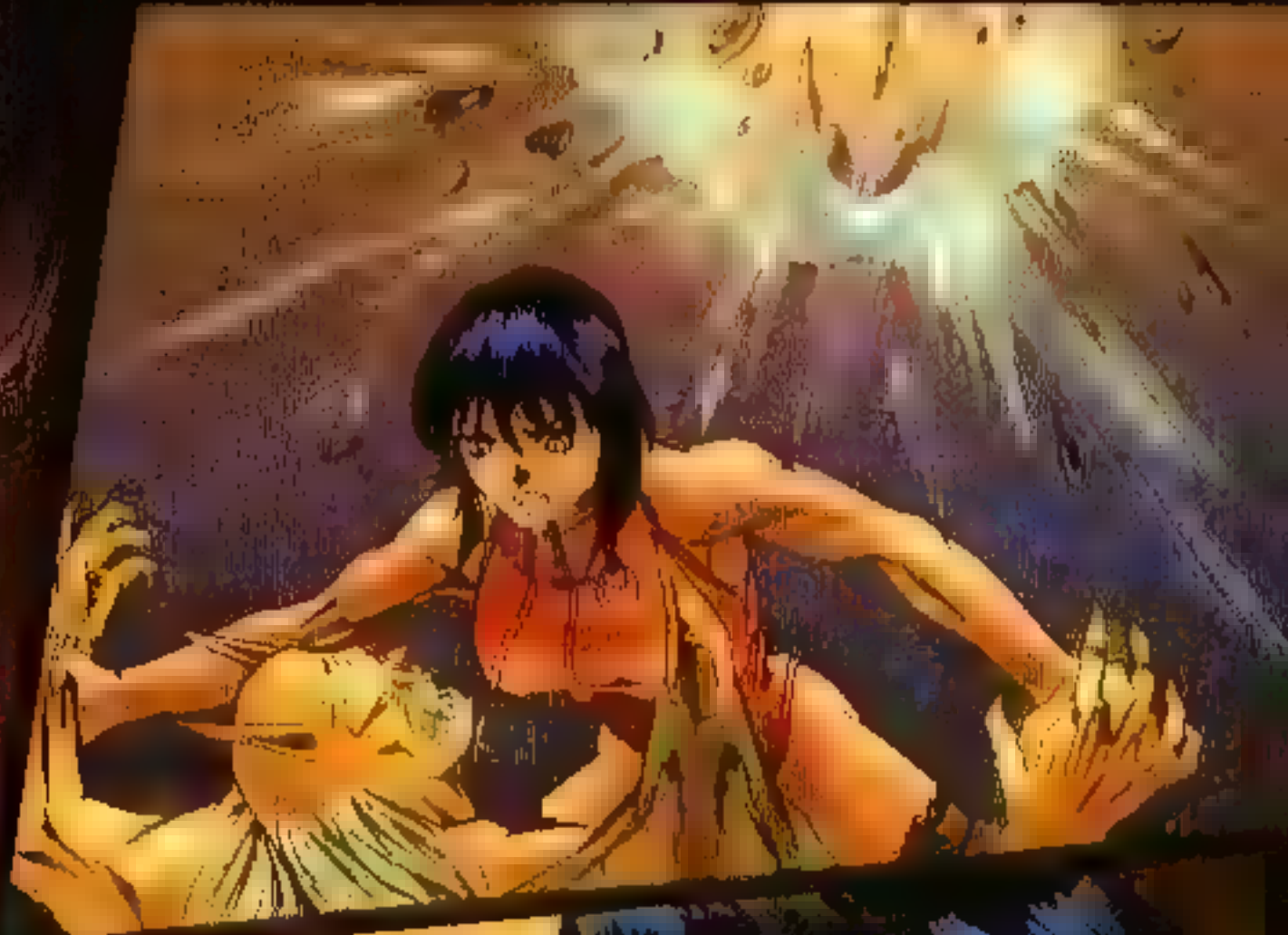
SO LET'S
SEAL OUR UNION IN
THE TRADITIONAL
WAY...

WITH
A KISS!

SURE.

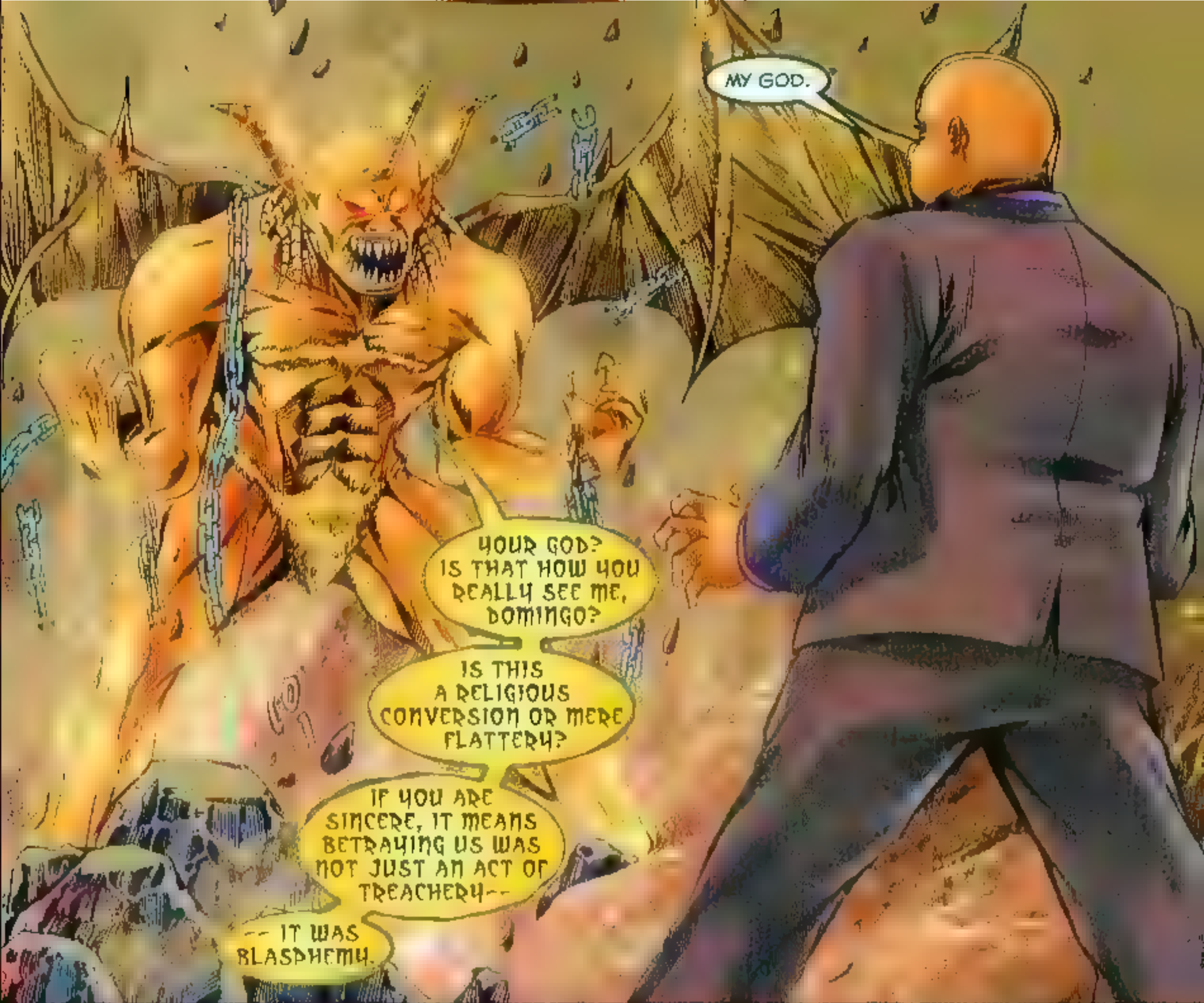
BUT I'VE
GOT JUST ONE
CONDITION.

NO
TONGUES!



OH...

DOMINGO!



MY GOD.

YOUR GOD?
IS THAT HOW YOU
REALLY SEE ME,
DOMINGO?

IS THIS
A RELIGIOUS
CONVERSION OR MERE
FLATTERY?

IF YOU ARE
SINCERE, IT MEANS
BETRAYING US WAS
NOT JUST AN ACT OF
TREACHERY--

-- IT WAS
BLASPHEMY.

AND YOUR
ANCESTORS
KNEW HOW TO DEAL
WITH HERETICS AND
BLASPHEMERS.

AN, NO,
DOMINGO, THOSE
DARK STAINS ARE
NOT RUST.

AURELIUS...





AURORA,
MY DEAR!

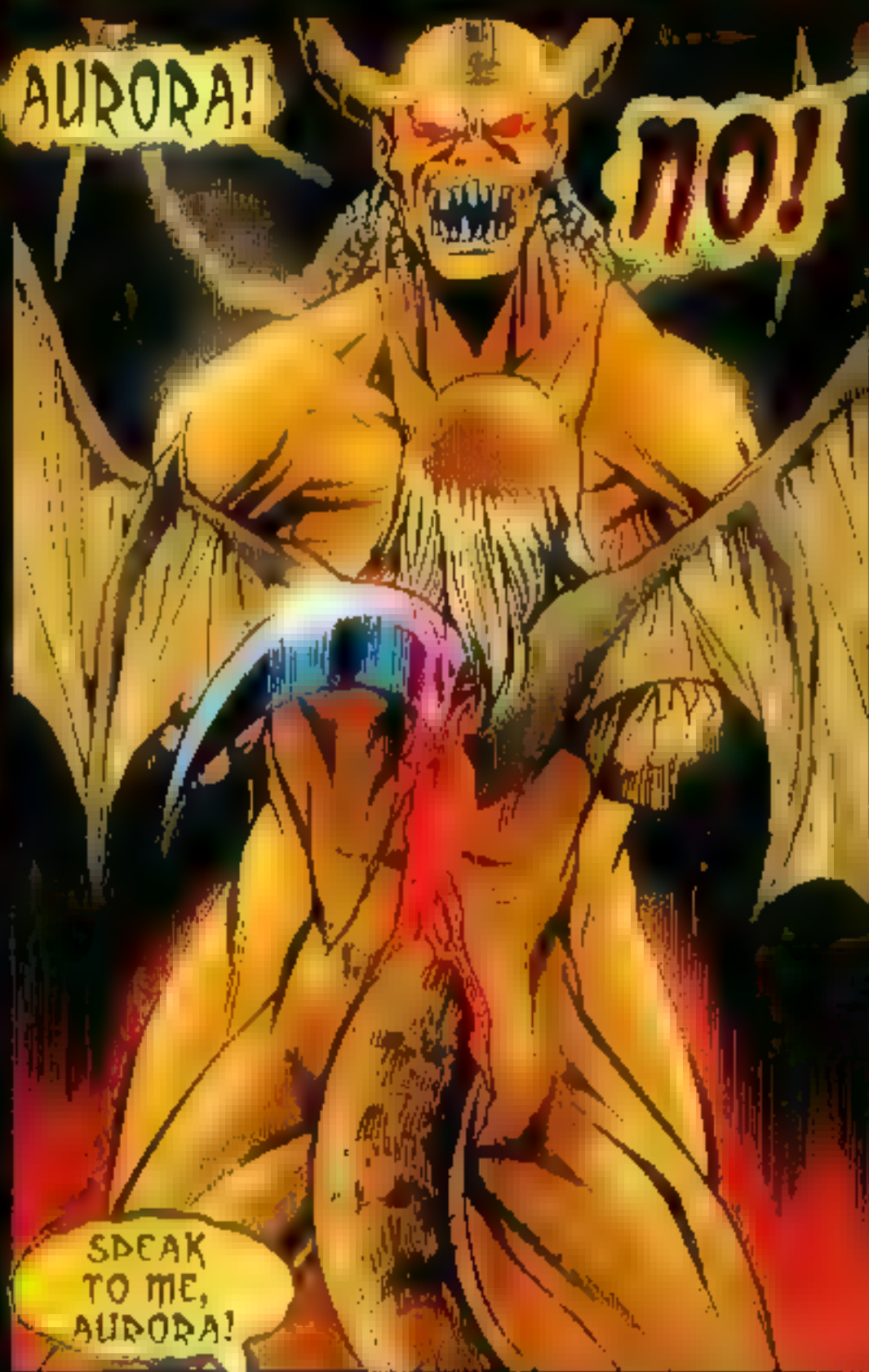
SO I
MISSED ALL THE
FUN WHILE I WAS
INDISPOSED.

AND VAMP? I TRUST YOU
LEFT SOMETHING
OF HER CARCASS
FOR ME.

VAMP?
YOU KNOW,
AURELIUS, BUT
IT'S JUST THE
FUNNIEST--



--THING



AURORA!

NO!

SPEAK
TO ME,
AURORA!



YOU CAN'T
DIE! THIS ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

BUT SHE
OBVIOUSLY
CAN-- AND IT
DEFINITELY
IS!

I'VE GOT
A QUESTION,
THOUGH

IF YOU REALLY
ARE GODS, DOES THAT
MEAN YOU MATE FOR
ETERNITY?







MY GOD--
WHAT WERE
THEY?

ALL THIS
TIME AND I NEVER
SUSPECTED ANYTHING
LIKE-- LIKE THIS.

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF THIS
MADHOUSE.

NOT
SO FAST,
PAL.

MAYBE YOU
DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT THEY
WERE--



BUT--
BUT I HELPED
YOU.

-- BUT YOU
WERE STILL
PREPARED TO
PLAY ALONG WITH
THEM UNTIL YOU
FOUND OUT.

I DID
THE RIGHT THING--
IN THE END.



SURE YOU
DID-- AND I'LL
BE CERTAIN TO TELL
THE PROPER
AUTHORITIES ALL
ABOUT IT.

MAYBE THEY'LL
LET YOU CUT A DEAL
AND YOU CAN SAVE
YOUR OWN SKIN BEFORE
YOUR OTHER BUDDIES
SELL YOU OUT.

OKAY--
OKAY. I'LL
CO-OPERATE.

PERHAPS IF
I PLEAD EXTENUATING
CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY'LL
UNDERSTAND.



YOU
DO THAT.
THE COURTS
CAN HANDLE YOU
AND YOUR SICK
BUDDIES.

BUT THERE'S
ANOTHER MONSTER OUT
THERE THEY CAN'T
DEAL WITH --



-- AND HIS SORRY
HIDE IS MINE!

TO BE CONTINUED!



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SERPENT'S KISS

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